

XXII.—*On Mammals from the Province of San Juan, Western Argentina.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

THE Museum has now received from Sr. E. Budin three small collections of Mammals from places in the Province of San Juan, and these may well be combined to form one general list.

The three localities are as follows:—

Cañada Honda, about 50 km. S. of San Juan City. Altitude about 500 m.

Pederal, about 60 km. S.W. of San Juan, and 30 W. of Cañada Honda. Altitude about 1200 m.

Sierra Tontal, a north and south range of mountains some 60 km. W. of San Juan. Collection made at Los Sombreros, an estancia at about 2700 m. altitude, and 35 km. N.W. of Pederal.

All three collections contained specimens of interest, but the Sierra Tontal proved much the richest locality, examples being obtained there of several mountain forms, such as *Lagidium* and *Abrocoma*, neither of which had been previously recorded from the province.

The present series forms the first contribution that the Museum has ever received from San Juan, and is therefore of proportionate value. Sr. Budin is much to be commended for the excellent collection he has made, and, as usual, for the admirable manner in which the skins are prepared.

A new *huron* and a second species of the recently described genus *Octomys* are the most notable discoveries made.

On the other hand, the almost complete absence of *Muridæ* is most remarkable, the family being only represented by *Phyllotis*, *Graomys*, and *Hesperomys*, and the two latter being very rare. Sr. Budin draws especial attention to the entire absence of *Akodon*, a genus whose members are generally the very commonest of the mammals in almost every other locality in South America, from Colombia to Cape Horn, their abundance in many places amounting to a plague.

1. *Felis salinarum*, Thos.

♀. 1255. Cañada Honda.

2. *Pseudalopex culpceus*, Mol.

♂. 1243, 1244. Cañada Honda.

3. *Grissonella ratellina*, sp. n.

♂. 1269. Pedernal, 1200 m.

Size markedly smaller than in *G. huronax*. Colour dark, iron-grey on fore-back, the light tipping of the hairs white, and only becoming slightly buffy on the rump and tail. Light facial band not strongly developed, whitish and less buffy than in other forms. Chin, interramia, and sides of throat with many white hairs intermixed with the black, but this may be an effect of senility, the only specimen being quite old.

Skull much smaller than in *G. huronax*, and also smaller than in the Chilean *G. melina*. Flattened above, the forehead decidedly lower than in the allied species. Ridges not greatly developed, in spite of the age of the type. Back of skull not broad, the mastoid breadth comparatively little.

Teeth much smaller than in *G. huronax*.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 429 mm.; tail 169; hind foot 60; ear 22.

Skull: median length 77; condylo-basal length 77.5; zygomatic breadth 43; interorbital breadth 16.8; intertemporal breadth 17.3; mastoid breadth 37.7; height of crown above palate between  $m^1$  18; maxillary tooth-row 22.5; length of  $p^4$  8; transverse diameter of  $m^1$  6.4.

*Hab.* As above.

*Type.* Old male, B.M. no. 21. 6. 19. 1. Original number 1269. Collected 9th January, 1921.

This huron is readily distinguished from the Argentine form, *G. huronax*, by its much smaller size and its more flattened skull. In this latter respect it resembles the Bolivian huron *G. luteola*, and may be nearly allied to it, but as *luteola* is only known from a female, and *ratellina* by a male, skull comparison is difficult. The colours of the two are, however, widely different, *luteola* being very strongly buffy, and alone equalled in that respect by the Brazilian *G. furax*.

4. *Conepatus proteus*, Thos.

♂. 1264; ♀. 1272, 1331. Pedernal, 1000–1200 m.

This little skunk was discovered in 1901 by P. O. Simons

at Cruz del Eje, Cordova, and has since been obtained by W. Smithers at Dolores in the same province.

5. *Hesperomys murillus cordovensis*, Thos.

♂. 1253, 1256. Cañada Honda.

6. *Graomys* sp.

♂. 1254. Cañada Honda.

♀. 1268, 1333, 1334. Pedernal.

All more or less immature.

7. *Phyllotis darwini* subsp.

♂. 1271, 1321, 1326; ♀. 1267. Pedernal.

♂. 1285, 1297, 1304, 1319; ♀. 1290, 1292, 1295, 1298, 1310. Sierra Tontal.

Not or doubtfully distinguishable from *P. d. vaccarum* of Mendoza.

8. *Abrocoma schistacea*, sp. n.

♂. 1325, 1329; ♀. 1322, 1324. Pedernal.

♂. 1278, 1279, 1280, 1306, 1314; ♀. 1275, 1281, 1296, 1299, 1311. Sierra Tontal.

Several separate skulls.

Near *A. budini*, but with still larger bullæ.

Size about as in *budini*. General colour above pale slaty grey, with less of the drabby tone found in *budini*, in this respect more matching *famatina*. Under surface similar but paler, a well-marked whitish glandular patch on the chest, as usual. Tail fairly long, decidedly longer than in *cinerea*.

Skull very like that of *budini*, but with even larger bullæ, these being the largest found in the genus. Nasals long, not so attenuated behind as in *budini*. Mastoid islands on top of skull of medium size. Slenderness of muzzle, small incisors, and imperforate palate as in the other Argentine species. Molars unusually variable in size.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 190 mm.; tail 111; hind foot 28; ear 26·5.

Skull: greatest length 49; condylo-incisive length 46·7; zygomatic breadth 24; nasals 18·5 × 5·5; interorbital breadth

6·2; greatest horizontal diameter of bulla 17·4; bi-meatal breadth 25·2; upper tooth-series 11·2.

*Hab.* as above. Type from Los Sombreros, Sierra Tontal. Alt. 2700 m.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 21. 6. 21. 11. Original number 1296. Collected 29th January, 1921.

Readily distinguishable from other species by its large bullæ.

[The following *Abrocoma*, obtained by Sr. Budin just across the border in the neighbouring province of Mendoza, may be conveniently described here:—

*Abrocoma vaccarum*, sp. n.

Colour as in *A. schistacea* and *famatina*. Size about as in *famatina*, but the ears decidedly larger and the tail shorter.

Skull slightly longer than that of *famatina*, shorter than in the other species. Muzzle slender, the nasals not peculiarly attenuated. Mastoid islands rather small. Bullæ smaller than in any of the other species. Molars fairly large.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 191 mm.; tail 94; hind foot 28; ear 25.

Skull: greatest length 47; condylo-basal length 44·3; zygomatic breadth 24·2; nasals 18·5 × 5·4; interorbital breadth 6·8; greatest horizontal diameter of bulla 15; bi-meatal breadth 23·7; upper tooth-series 9·7.

*Hab.* North-western Mendoza; type from Punta de Vacas. Altitude 3000 m.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 21. 6. 24. 20. Original number 1364. Collected 12th March, 1921. Two specimens.

Distinguishable by the short tail and small bullæ. All these Argentine species of *Abrocoma* are nearly allied and very similar to each other, but the characters used, slight as they are, seem to be locally constant, while the respective mountain habitats are well separated and often completely isolated.]

9. *Octomys joannius*, sp. n.

♂. 1270; ♀. 1273, 1332. Pederal, 1200 m.

Like *O. mimax* in all respects, cranial and external, except that the frontal region of the skull is quite materially broader, and flat or even slightly convex above instead of being concave in the interorbital space. In correlation with this the pre-

maxillary processes are broader terminally, while the brain-case itself is somewhat more inflated.

In colour the resemblance is very close indeed, the only perceptible difference being that in *mimax* the flanks are more decidedly lighter than the back and the hips are whitish on their outer aspect, while in *joannius* both sides and hips partake of the general drabby tone. But the difference is so slight that no attention would have been paid to it had the skulls been identical.

Dimensions of the type :—

Head and body 167 mm. ; tail 171 ; hind foot 35 ; ear 22·3.

Skull : greatest length 45 ; condylo-incisive length 41·6 ; zygomatic breadth 23 ; breadth of frontal premaxillary processes posteriorly 2·6 (in *mimax* 2·1) ; interorbital breadth 10·7 ; least breadth across brain-case 19 ; bimeatal breadth 22·2 ; diagonal length of bullæ 15·2 ; upper tooth-series (crowns) 8·5.

*Type.* Old female. B.M. no. 21. 6. 19. 12. Original number 1273. Collected 11th January, 1921.

It is of much interest to find a second locality for the remarkable genus *Octomys*, which was discovered by Sr. Budin at Tinagasta, Catamarca, in January 1920.

In spite of the considerable distance between the two habitats, the new form is remarkably like the older one, but the broader frontals suffice to distinguish the two.

“Very rare and very difficult to trap ; unknown to the natives.”—*E. B.*

#### 10. *Ctenomys coludo johannis*, Thos.

♂. 1233, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1251 ; ♀. 1228, 1229, 1237, 1242. Cañada Honda.

Based on this series ; No. 1233 the type.

I am now less sure than I was that this should be considered as a subspecies of *coludo*, but for the moment leave it under the name by which it was described.

#### 11. *Ctenomys tulduco*, sp. n.

♂. 1328, 1330 ; ♀. 1327, 1335. Pedernal.

♂. 1277, 1283, 1286, 1315, 1317 ; ♀. 1282, 1287, 1289, 1291, 1308, 1318. Sierra Tontal.

Allied to *coludo*, but smaller and with shorter tail.

Size rather less than in *coludo*. General colour above drabby grey, not far from that of *johannis*, the tone not

nearly so warm as that of *coludo*. But below the colour is also strongly drabby, the hairs broadly washed with dull buffy, about as in *coludo*, quite unlike the unusually light under surface of *johannis*. An inconspicuous dull nasal patch. Tail shorter than in *coludo*, the longest in the series 74 mm.; a line along its upper side black or blackish, varying in definition, but always more marked than in the allied species.

Skull not unlike that of *johannis*, but smaller and with rather smaller bullæ, though these are still far larger than in *mendocinus*.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 190 mm.; tail 69; hind foot 32.6.

Skull: greatest length 45; condylo-incisive length 44.5; zygomatic breadth 27; nasals 16.5 × 7.4; interorbital breadth 9; least breadth across brain-case 17; bimeatal breadth 28.7; bulla 16 × 8.6; upper tooth-series (crowns) 8.7; oblique diameter of  $p^4$  3.3.

*Hab.* as above. Type from Los Sombreros, Sierra Tontal. Alt. 2700 m.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 21. 6. 21. 18. Original number 1277. Collected 19th January, 1921.

This *Ctenomys* reflects in the darker colour of its under surface the more fertile character of its surroundings, as compared with the light-bellied *johannis*, found on the more arid and lower ground further east.

Sr. Budin says that instead of tuco-tuco the natives of San Juan have a special name for *Ctenomys*, "Tulduco," which may well be used as a specific term.

## 12. *Lagidium tontalis*, sp. n.

♂. 1274, 1309; ♀. 1294, 1303, 1316. Sierra Tontal, 2700 m. And several separate skulls.

Decidedly smaller than *L. famatinae*, the geographically nearest of described species.

Size about as in *L. vulcani* of Jujuy. General colour (apart from the usual rusty or buffy patches due to hair-fading) pale grey, near "pale neutral grey," more mouse-grey on the sides. Shoulders and rump rather paler. A well-defined blackish dorsal line from withers to rump. Under surface broadly washed with yellow (near "chamois"). Inconspicuous white axillary patches present. Tail grizzled as usual, the end darker but not black.

Skull small, with slender muzzle. Nasals narrow, little

inflated anteriorly, not visible from below outside the premaxillæ; behind the posterior border of the nasals is but little indented in the centre, and the premaxillæ surpass them by but a short distance. Interorbital space narrow, its anterior portion more definitely concave than usual. Mastoid islands on top of skull variable, generally rather small. Bullæ of medium size, smaller than in *famatinae*, larger than in *vulcani*.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 395 mm.; tail 340; hind foot 100; ear 83.

Skull: greatest length 91; condylo-incisive length 82; zygomatic breadth 46; nasals  $33 \times 10.5$ ; interorbital breadth (not at notches) 19; diastema 26; length of bulla 17; upper tooth-series (crowns)  $19.4$ ; breadth of  $p^4$   $4.7$ .

*Hab.* as above.

*Type.* Adult female. B.M. no. 21. 6. 21. 39. Original number 1303. Collected 2nd February, 1921.

The series obtained is remarkably uniform in colour and skull-characters.

Readily distinguishable from *famatinae* by its smaller size and more slender muzzle.

[The following *Lagidium* was obtained by Sr. Budin at Punta de Vacas, on the Transandean route in Mendoza, and may be here described:—

*Lagidium viatorum*, sp. n.

Size about as in *tontalis*; interorbital region broader.

General colour rather more uniform neutral grey, not lightened on shoulders and rump. Ends of hairs of lower surface distinctly ochraceous or cinnamon-buff, instead of the yellow of *L. tontalis*. White axillary patches present.

Skull of about the same length as in *tontalis*, but more bulky throughout. Nasals more inflated in their anterior halves, reaching backwards nearly as far as the premaxillæ. Interorbital region decidedly broader than in *tontalis*, its anterior part less decidedly concave. Bullæ about as in *tontalis*. Incisors of both adult specimens pale yellow in front. Molars comparatively large.

Dimensions of the type:—

Head and body 400 mm.; tail 335; hind foot 105; ear 80.

Skull: greatest length 91; condylo-incisive length 82; zygomatic breadth 48; nasals  $34.5 \times 11$ ; interorbital breadth

(notches excluded) 22; diastema 26.5; length of bulla 16.3; upper tooth-series (crowns) 20.3; breadth of  $p^4$  5.2.

*Hab.* Punta de Vacas, N.W. Mendoza. Alt. 2300 m.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. No. 21. 6. 24. 21. Original number 1336.

Three specimens, of which one is immature.

This vizcacha is no doubt nearly allied to *L. tontalis*, but is distinguished by the details above described, especially by its distinctly broader frontals.]

13. *Galea leucoblephara*, Burm.

♂. 1265. Pedernal.

♂. 1320. Sierra Tontal.

14. *Caviella australis joannia*, Thos.

♂. 1230, 1231, 1235, 1247; ♀. 1236, 1245, 1246, 1248. Cañada Honda.

♂. 1266. Pedernal.

♂. 1307, 1312, 1313; ♀. 1293, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1305. Sierra Tontal.

Based on the Cañada Honda series. No. 1246 the type.

15. *Dasypus vallerosus pannosus*, Thos.

♂. 1263; ♀. 1232, 1249, 1257. Cañada Honda.

XXIII.—Two new Argentine Forms of Skunk.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

*Conepatus suffocans pampanus*, subsp. n.

Most like *C. s. gibsoni*, as I now believe the Ajó skunk should be called, but the stripes conspicuously narrower, so as greatly to reduce the general amount of white on the animal. Stripes running down on to the sides of the base of the tail, as in *gibsoni*, while in *suffocans* this is very rarely the case. Fur of about the same texture as in *gibsoni*, not so soft as in *humboldtii*. Tail bushy, broadly tasselled white-black-white, as in *gibsoni*, while *suffocans* rarely has the long white hairs at the end.

Skull as usual.